



FO rejects 'ill-informed' US report on religious freedom in Pakistan

Pakistan on Thursday rejected the baseless assertions made in the recently published International Religious Freedom Report by the United States (US). Speaking during a weekly presser, FO Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said that Pakistan assured religious freedom and provided protection to its citizens.



Sanjrani constitutes committee to rename Parliament House

Senate Chairman Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani on Thursday constituted a Parliamentary Committee with the crucial task of renaming Parliament House. The new name will be a reflection of our rich cultural heritage, a testament to our national values, and a symbol of the unity of our great nation. The new name will reflect the rich cultural heritage, uphold the national values, and symbolize the unity of the great nation.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

New era

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Iranian President H.E. Ebrahim Raisi in delegation level meeting at Mand-Pishin joint border market. Pakistan-Iran border, on Thursday.



Photo: PID

President Alvi urges politicians to resolve issues with sagacity, patience

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi Thursday said sanity should prevail and political issues should be resolved with sagacity and patience and focus should be brought back to economic issues facing the nation.

In an interview with a private television channel, he said political instability would create problems for Pakistan, adding it was good omen that politicians were not ready to impose emergency.

He said action should be taken against the persons involved in the incidents of May 9.

"I was aggrieved by the incidents of May 9. Transparent and independent investigations should be held and those who attacked government and army installations and were involved in vandalism should be punished. These incidents should be condemned."

He said he wrote letters to the Prime Minister and army chief and condemned the incidents



as it was painful for him that the house of Corps Commander, the office of the intelligence agency and martyrs' monument were vandalized.

However, human rights should be upheld and no one should be tortured, he stressed, adding the right to protest should be exercised within the confines of law.

The President said politicians should consider the matter of filing of cases under the army act. In the past, Parliament and Supreme Court undid punishments handed down by the military courts, he mentioned. He said anti-terrorism laws were being used to try politicians which was a cause of concern.

To a question, he said he was in support of Pakistan army, democratic forces and people of Pakistan.

Border market, transmission line projects added new chapter to Pak-Iran ties: PM

Spokesman Report

PAK-IRAN BORDER: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday said that the inauguration of Mand-Pishin border market and 100 megawatt power Gabd-Polan power transmission line added a new chapter to Pakistan-Iran relationship.

The prime minister, who along with Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi inaugurated the Gabd-Polan transmission line told the ceremony that the project would benefit the people of Gwadar and bring in the socio-economic development.

He thanked the energy ministers of Pakistan and Iran and relevant organisations for their efforts to complete the otherwise

halted project in the record time. The prime minister believed that there existed huge potential for bilateral energy and petroleum projects and expressed the hope that the two countries would make all-out efforts to tap the potential for benefit of the two people.

Regarding the inauguration of Pishin-Mand border market, he said such six markets would be developed in the region to usher a new era of progress. This would prove to be a milestone for bilateral relationship, he remarked.

Prime Minister Shehbaz told the gathering that during his meeting with President Raisi earlier in the day, he had discussed cooperation in the solar energy sector as the Iranian lead-

er also assured cooperation.

He said the delegations from both sides would visit each other to work out the solar energy projects.

The prime minister said he also extended an invitation to President Raisi which he accepted.

He said Pakistan and Iran were bound in centuries old relationship marking Islamic brotherhood. However the bilateral trade, investment did not reflect that relationship, he commented.

Calling for maximum efforts to exploit the potential, the prime minister assured the Iranian president of his support and cooperation in the journey.

He said the leadership from both sides would have to bring about a revolution of develop-

ment for the benefit of two countries.

To a suggestion by the Iranian president, the prime minister assured for taking measures for a joint security mechanism in order to thwart the nefarious designs poised to undermine the bilateral ties.

The prime minister also thanked the Iranian president for a warm reception and hospitality to him as well as the delegation.

In his address, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi said the the Pak-Iran relations were strengthening as both the countries were bound in religious bond.

He said Iran desired to enhance cooperation with Pakistan in the energy sector.

He congratulated the Govern-

ment of Pakistan on completion of the 100MW power transmission project which he hoped would beget employment opportunities for people in the area.

Coming to the regional situation, he called for resolution of regional disputes through dialogue to achieve durable peace.

Energy Minister Engineer Khurram Dastgir thanked the Iranian partners and NTDC in Pakistan for their extraordinary efforts to ensure completion of the project in record time despite heavy floods.

He said these projects would unlock the development and lead to the infrastructural transformation as well as industrial development.

Pakistan, Qatar vow to enhance bilateral trade, tourism



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Qatar on Thursday vowed to further promote their bilateral trade and tourism.

The understanding was reached during a meeting between Ambassadors of Qatar Sheikh Saud bin Abdul Rahman Al Thani with Minister for Interior Rana Sanaulah in Islamabad.

The two personalities also discussed issues of mutual interest including bilateral relations between the coun-

tries. Noting that two and a half lakh Pakistanis are currently working in Qatar, the meeting decided to increase Pakistani manpower to 650,000. The two sides also agreed to continue full cooperation to deal with internal security challenges. Speaking on the occasion, the Interior Minister said Qatari citizens will be provided visa facility on arrival in Pakistan. He said there is an eternal relationship of trust between the people of two countries.

Roads leading to Zaman Park residence blocked as Punjab Govt's deadline ends

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Roads leading to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan's Zaman Park residence in Lahore have been blocked as the deadline given by the Punjab police to hand over "terrorists" ended at 2:00 pm today.

According to details, Jail Road heading towards Zaman Park was blocked for traffic while a large number of police personnel have been deployed on the routes leading to Zaman Park.

Punjab government had given a 24-hour ultimatum to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) to hand over 'terrorists', who had taken refuge in former PM's home.

On Wednesday, while addressing a press conference, Punjab caretaker information minister Amir Mir claimed that 30 to 40 terrorists, who had

attacked Army installations including Jinnah House, were present in Zaman Park.

The Punjab minister said that the agencies were able to confirm the presence of the "terrorists" in Zaman Park through geo-fencing.

"The intelligence report that has come is very alarming," said Mir. "Handover the terrorists within 24 hours or the law will take its course."

The minister claimed multiple people were in touch with Zaman Park during the attack on the Corps Commander House.

It is pertinent to mention here that the police had launched a crackdown against Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders and workers following the 'violent protests' held after the arrest of party chairman Imran Khan in the Al-Qadir Trust Case.

PM Shehbaz, President Raisi to inaugurate Gawadar transmission line: Marriyum



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Thursday said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and President of Iran Ebrahim Raisi will jointly inaugurate the first ever 100 MW transmission line from Iran to Gawadar to fulfill the energy needs of Gawadar.

In a tweet, she said the project pending since 2009 was completed in a record time of four months under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

Parliament delegation attends APA meeting in Manama, Bahrain



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of the Parliament of Pakistan, led by Senator Sania Nishtar, took part in the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development meeting held in Manama, Bahrain on May 16-17, 2023.

The delegation engaged in productive sideline bilateral meetings with esteemed counterparts from Iran, Qatar, Indonesia, and Turkey.

During the bilateral meetings, a wide range of issues were discussed, with a particular focus on education, poverty eradication, and the establishment of forums to foster

the exchange of Parliamentary Best Practices, knowledge, and experience.

Pakistan's delegation effectively presented its viewpoints on various resolutions discussed during the meeting. The stance of Pakistan received a warm welcome, appreciation, and acceptance from the APA Secretary General and like-minded countries.

Furthermore, the delegation emphasized Pakistan's position on the illegal and forcible occupation of Jammu and Kashmir by India. The Parliament of Pakistan remains committed to fostering regional cooperation, sustainable development, and the pursuit of shared goals for the betterment of all nations.

Imran Khan demands CCTV footage of Jinnah House attack

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman and former prime minister Imran Khan demanded the CCTV footage of the Jinnah House Attack.

As per details, the PTI chief said that a transparent investigation of the Jinnah House attack must be conducted. He stated which person doesn't condemn the Jinnah House attack, everyone condemns it, he added.

The PTI premiere said that throughout his life he has asked people to protest peacefully and he had never promoted violent protests.

Earlier today, Punjab Caretaker Information Minister Amir Mir said that eight terrorists were arrested fleeing Paki-



stan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan's Zaman Park residence.

He said that the suspects were involved in the attack on Jinnah House and they were already identified.

Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif also held Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan responsible for the "barbaric act of torching of Corps Commander House in Lahore", saying the latter planned and instigated the act of arson.

Powerful partnership

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister Sajid Hussain Turi and Uzbekistan's Minister Bekhzod Musaev exchange signatures, forging a powerful partnership through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)



One soldier martyred in DI Khan while one terrorist killed in Bajaur district, ISPR



Adam Khan Wazir

PESHAWAR: According to ISPR, fire exchange took place between

own troops and terrorists, in general area Loesam, Bajaur District. Own troops effectively engaged the terrorists' location and one terrorist was sent to hell.

However, during intense exchange of fire, Sepoy Shafiq Ur Rehman (age 23 years, resident of DI Khan) having fought gallantly, embraced Shahadat.

Sanitization of the area is being carried out to eliminate any terrorists found in the area.

Security Forces of Pakistan are determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism and these sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthen our resolve.

Chairman NDMA represents Pakistan in Midterm Review for Implementation of Sendai Framework at UN HQ

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Chairman NDMA Lt Gen Inam Haidar Malik, participated as delegation leader in an event on Accelerating implementation of DRR & resilience in infrastructure at United Nations Headquarters, New York, USA. The event was part of High-Level Meeting of Midterm Review for Implementation of the Sendai



Chairman NDMA highlighted crucial role of Disaster Risks Reduction for develop-

oping economies & laid stress on innovative DRR approaches based on local needs. He added that SDGs need to be met through unified global efforts.

He stated that Pakistan's demonstrated resolve is act of brilliance amidst economic odds but still facing risks of multiple hazards with simultaneous coded disasters whereby still under recovery mode after floods 2022.

He emphasized to conduct resilience audit of existing infrastructure and resilience NOC needs to be embedded into planning phase of future infrastructure projects.

He also mentioned about NDMA's national think tank NIDM which besides global connectivity, aims to collate academia with all DM responders of respective areas for developing local communities' centric projects.

Nine ex-Assembly members of Tehreek-e-Insaf announced to leave the party (PTI)

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: A big blow to Tehreek-e-Insaf from South Punjab, severely condemning the 9th May tragedy, nine ex-members of Tehreek-e-Insaf announced to leave the party. Addressing the press conference

Former Tehreek-e-Insaf Members of Assembly Zaheeruddin Alizai, Ashraf Rand, Alamdar Qureshi, Niaz Gashkuri, Jahanzeb Warren, Abdul Hai Dasti, Aun Hameed Dogru and others held a press conference in Multan Press Club and said that we strongly condemn the tragedy of



May 9, the entire Pakistan Army. There is a bigger asset than the state, first comes the state and politics, no one can go against the Pakistani forces and those who conspire and attack against Pakistan. And we demand that the rest of the characters who are

plotting against the Pakistan Army should also be brought forward. We are not only ninety people but we are standing with the entire nation and especially the youth of the Pakistan Army. The first thing is Pakistan, the Pakistan Army is Pakistan and our protector. K's press conference is the first drop of rain, after that more people will join us, November is the worst event in the history of Pakistan, no one can be a part of an anti-national party, the miscreants who attacked military installations have been brought to book. Go, Pakistan is everything, more decisions are yet to be made



High Commissioner for Pakistan to Bangladesh, Mr. Imran Ahmed Siddiqui with the President and members of Rajshahi Chamber of Commerce and Industry RCCI during visit to the Chamber on Thursday.

Israel's so-called 'Jerusalem Day' violations of international law and UN Charter

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Israel, the occupying Power, its officials, settler militias, its flag, and occupying forces have no sovereignty, place, or authority over any part of Jerusalem, its Old City, its alleys, its walls, and its Holy Sites.

Israel's racist laws and practices aimed to alter the demographic composition, historic, and legal status of Jerusalem, including its annexation, are null and void and must be rescinded.

Israel's so-called "Jerusalem Day" is a celebration of grave violations of international law and United Nations Charter, including the prohibition of acquisition of territory by force.

The so-called "Flag March" embodies the racist, discriminatory, and oppressive regime of Jewish supremacy and apartheid.

Armed Jewish supremacists marching in Jerusalem, openly calling for the death of Arabs and Muslims and wreaking havoc, is an act of terror. This includes apparent and systematic recruitment and use of children by Jewish supremacists and the continued teaching of hate and incitement.

The so-called "Flag March" exposes Israel's non-existent sovereignty over Jerusalem by harassing and arresting, en masse, the Palestinian people, attacking their homes and shops, and paralyzing the City in order to guard the settlers.

Constitution of Pakistan has played a great role for the people

Quaratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: Chief Justice of Lahore High Court Mr. Justice Muhammad Amir Bhatti has said that the Constitution of Pakistan is a reward for the sacrifices of our forefathers. The Constitution of Pakistan is the guarantor of the rights of every individual, the Chief Justice of Lahore High Court was addressing the golden jubilee ceremony of the Constitution of Pakistan at Gilani Law College of Jamia Zakaria. Chief Justice Lahore High Court Mr. Justice Muhammad Amir Bhatti further said that the Constitution of Pakistan also interprets the judiciary law and the provinces, the high courts played an active role for the Constitution of Pakistan. Established the rule.

Former Chief Justice of Lahore High Court Mr. Justice Muhammad Qasim Khan while addressing the golden jubilee ceremony of the Constitution said that it is unfortunate that every individual is dealing with the Constitution of Pakistan and the laws that make it in their own way, they do not want to twist it according to their will and intention. This is an agreement between the state and the citizens, where the constitution says that they cannot speak in the parliament, if they are criticized, where will the common citizens go for justice. The executive has to play a role in providing the rights of the people, former Chief Justice of Lahore High Court Muhammad Qasim Khan added that many memories are associated with the university.

Airport handling strike put off till June 4



ROME: A four-hour airport handling strike has been put off from Friday May 19 to June 4, unions said Thursday.

The postponement came after Transport Minister Matteo Salvini urged unions to out it off in view of the serious transport problems affecting Italy due to catastrophic flooding in Emilia Romagna.

Italy's big three unions, CGIL, CISL and UIL, as well as right-wing union UIL, said the strike would be put off for over two weeks, until Sunday May 4. But a broader, 24-hour air transport strike for Friday has been confirmed, the CUB union said.

Innovative tobacco products killing our children

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Health activists have urged government to impose ban on innovative products such as nicotine pouches, e-cigarettes and heated tobacco devices in order to save Pakistan's future. This demand was raised at the launch ceremony of "Big Tobacco-Tiny Targets" - a survey conducted by Society for Protection of the Rights of the Child (SPARC) in collaboration with Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids (CTFK) to examine the sale and advertising trends of innovative tobacco products in 9 cities of Pakistan.

The survey revealed that all points of sale were selling innovative tobacco products around points of interest for youth. These products, mainly nicotine pouches, are displayed at visible eye level for children and placed beside

candies, sweets and toys to appeal children and youth. Vendors also utilize sales techniques such as discounted products, free samples, gifts and competition entries to attract the customers.

Chief Guest, Mr. Mahesh Kumar Malani, Minister of State, Health Services Regulations & Coordination, Government of Pakistan, said that Pakistan's children are its assets. The basic dangers of tobacco are known to everyone but this research is a great effort because as it explores the harms of advertising as well. In future this will help us in minimizing the harms of tobacco.

Guest of Honour Dr. Shazia Sobia Soomro, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of National Health Services, Regulation & Coordination mentioned that, this research is an eye opener for everyone that Pakistan's children are

bombarded with marketing and easy accessibility of addictive nicotine products around their educational and recreational facilities. This research will help us in coming up with ways to protect our children from tobacco's harms.

Ms. Khalida Ahmed, Member Board of Directors SPARC, appreciated SPARC for conducting Tiny Targets. She said that rising tobacco is a huge issue in Pakistan. She mentioned that due to cheap and easy affordability nearly 1200 children begin smoking every day in Pakistan. We can't afford any more children getting addicted to these new products.

Ms. Sana Jamali, Member, Senate of Pakistan said that this research will help the Government in recognizing the dangers of innovative tobacco products before it is too late. The government must ban addictive nicotine

products and also strengthen Pakistan's tobacco control legislation, to include ban on all forms of advertising of addictive nicotine products.

Khalil Ahmed Dogar, Program Manager, SPARC, stated that Tiny Targets survey was conducted in were Islamabad, Karachi, Lahore, Peshawar, Faisalabad, Rawalpindi, Multan, Bahawalpur and Hyderabad. The surveyors collected data from vendors operating within 100-meter radius of schools, universities, hostels, playground and parks, cinemas, shopping malls, indoor gaming /entertaining center and restaurants.

The event was attended by parliamentarians, civil society members, health activists, journalists and youth, who appreciated SPARC's efforts and expressed their commitment to support the cause of making Pakistan tobacco free.

Second three-day international conference (Hybrid) concluded

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: The second three-day international conference (Hybrid) on the theme of "Trends and Research in Chemistry" (Hybrid) organized by the University of Education, Lahore, concluded here on May 18, 2023. Renowned researchers and scholars from more than 30 countries including Pakistan, America, Netherlands, France, Malaysia, China, Great Britain, Bulgaria, Australia, Iran, Turkey, Saudi Arabia participated in the conference. In the conference, researchers and scholars presented around a hundred comprehensive research papers, which were well received by the participants.

The closing ceremony of the international conference was held in the main campus township of UE, which was presided over by the Vice Chancellor of the University of Education Prof. Dr. Talat Naseer Pasha (S.I., H.I.) while the chief guest was the Vice Chancellor of Government College Women University, Faisalabad Prof. Dr. Rubina Farooq.



Addressing the closing ceremony of the conference, University of Education Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr. Talat Naseer Pasha (S.I., H.I.) said that we are hopeful that the researchers and scholars benefited from this conference through the exchange of knowledge and experience, which will also ultimately benefit all countries and their people. The field of chemistry is very vast and it is increasing day by day with modern research.

The Vice-Chancellor said that undoubtedly, research is the basic unit of development, the nations which have adopted the habit of research, they have

a distinguished position in the world today, so as Pakistanis, we also need to pay full attention to it. University of Education, Lahore has once again shown its seriousness in the field of research by organizing this conference.

The chief guest of the ceremony, Vice Chancellor Government College Women University Faisalabad, Prof. Dr. Rubina Farooq, said that during the three-day conference, researchers from 30 countries got an opportunity to learn a lot from each other's knowledge and experience, on which University of Education, Lahore deserved applauded. I am sure that the said conference will open new doors of collaboration and cooperation among scientists in the field of chemistry at the global level. At the end of the ceremony, the Chairperson of the Department of Chemistry Professor Dr. Mian Habibur Rahman thanked the participants. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Arshad, Pro-Vice Chancellor, local Directors/Principals of UE and a large number of students were also present on this occasion.

Cultural Day celebrated at Liaquat University



Zainab Hyder

KARACHI: Cultural Day was celebrated at Liaquat University of Medical and Health Sciences Jamshoro. In addition, local and foreign students set up stalls related to their regional Cultural, in which traditional food and clothing reflected their cultural colors.

On this occasion, Vice Chancellor of LUMHS Professor Dr. Ikram Din Ujan inspected the stalls along with the faculty member. Not only students from all over Pakistan are studying in LUMHS, but students from abroad are also studying in LUMHS.

VC LUMHS Dr. Ikram Ujan congratulated the students for making this Culture Day a success and I congratulate the students and students of Lumhs from heart. He said that LUMHS students has earned name and fame across the world.

At the end of the program, the students presented their regional tableau.

CBD Punjab Ignites the Spirit of Opportunity for Modern Urbanization and Growth

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Punjab Central Business District Development Authority (PCBDDA), also known as Central Business District Punjab (CBD Punjab), an authority working on modern urbanization and vertical expansion has taken a unique approach in showcasing the legacy of the province, Punjab.

Whilst Punjab is shown as a vibrant mix of subcontinental culture in popular media, CBD Punjab has rekindled the spotlight on Punjab's excellent development-rich history. From the ancient Punjab being a pivotal trade route in the grand scheme of the world, to the Mughals era creating architectural wonders and engineering marvels, to the key infrastructural developments of the 1800 and 1900s; the developmental excellence and legacy of Punjab has been carried forward by CBD Punjab by coining Punjab as the 'Spirit of Opportunity'. CBD Punjab is taking the land of five rivers into its next era of development via sustainable and modern mega-projects.

The TVC also features visual representations of CBD Punjab's future projects, including the tallest skyscraper 'Sirius', the medical facility 'Sano', the IT hub 'Node' in the Special Technology Zone being established in the near future, the branded residential tower 'Regalia' and much acclaimed retail district 'Runway'. These projects aim to transform Lahore's economic landscape and provide new opportunities for growth and development. The TVC has been aired on national and global media and has been praised by viewers for its quality production, camera work, and visuals.

Speaking about the TVC, the CEO of CBD Punjab, Imran Amin, said, "We are delighted to launch this unique TVC, it portrays our commitment to advancing economic and national development and creating a brighter future for all. Punjab being the largest province in terms of economy and population with a huge pool of skilled workforce always has immense potential of investments and CBD Punjab at this moment is driving the said potential. We have investment opportunities not just in vertical development but also in energy, health, hospitality, entertainment, and retail infrastructure."

Provincial Minister inspects under construction roads in Attock district

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Provincial Minister Communication, works excise taxation and narcotics control Punjab Mr. Bilal Afzal on Thursday during his surprise inspection of under construction roads of district Attock has said that all available sources are being utilized by the Punjab Government to provide maximum relief to its people after uplifting the communication network of the Punjab. He was also accompanied by Executive Engineer Highways Punjab Attock Mr. Ashfaq Sulehry, Deputy Director Public Relations Punjab Attock Mr. Shahzad Niaz and other heads of the relevant departments. The Provincial Minister Mr. Bilal Afzal also visited the ongoing construction work of roads include Kharpa interchange link Mahluwali measuring 29.30 kms with the cost of Rs.900 million, CPEC Kharpa interchange to Akhlas covering the length of 09 km incurring cost of Rs.400 million and Mithial chowk to Pindigheb City having length of 30 kilometers with cost of Rs.1500 kms. He was also made comprehensive briefing by the officers of the Highways Department.

Visit

MULTAN: Chief Justice of Lahore High Court, Mr. Justice Muhammad Ameer Bhatti and Former Chief Justice Muhammad Qasim Khan, Former judges Khalid Alvi, Zafar Yasin along with others are inspecting the pictures of famous students in Gilani Law College.



Work on 38 km tank pezo road has started at a cost of 4 billion

Adam Khan Wazir

TANK: Former MPA Tank Mehmood Ahmad Khan Bettani has said that the mouths of those who accused JUI have been closed today. The historic project of 38 km Tank Pezo Road at a cost of 4 billion has been started, Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam has given priority to development work in every period. The opponents made announcements about the construction of Tank Pezo Road for ten years, but they were limited to lies.

Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam has started the practical work on Tank Pezo Road mega project



in a short time of one year.

He expressed these views in one of his statements. The former MPA said that the

Federal Minister of Communications Mufti Asad Mahmood is paying special attention to solving the problems of the tank.

The Federal Minister of Communications started the timely work on Tank Pezo Road with personal interest and

efforts will be made to complete it soon.

He said that Federal Minister Mufti Asad Mahmood has remembered the people of the constituency in every era, the work on Tank Pezo Road has been started, on which the work will be completed in a very short time. Former MPA Tank Mehmood Ahmad Khan Bettani said that now people are fed up with the false slogan of change and people are joining the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam in the next general election, the Jamiat-e-Ulama-e-Islam will settle all the problems by establishing a national and provincial government.

Pakistan is a safe and nuclear power due to the prayers of the nation

Mian Rashid Asghar

FAISALABAD: Today, Pakistan is a safe and nuclear power due to the prayers of the nation and the patriotic forces of Pakistan.

The events of May 9 hurt the hearts of every Pakistani, but a patriotic Pakistani can never become an open challenge against the progressive security of the country.

This was said by Allama Tahirul-Hassan, Central Deputy General Secretary, Pakistan Ulema Council and Member Provincial Ittehad-e-Bain-Muslimin Committee, Punjab Government. In his special statement he further codvisely added that every Pakistani stands with his Pakistani army and security institutions for the security and

stability of Pakistan. The elements whether the politicians of any kind viewing only of the desire to win power, they played the role of terrorists by attacking military installations.

He elaborated that, In the history of Pakistan, no enemy has ever been wounded, but it is not a patriot who harms the entire country for personal interests and political gain. Fair and impartial inquiry against those few evildoers must be observed.

Through a transparent investigation, a lesson should be made by making him stand in the court of law so that no one dares to spread such chaos and disorder in Pakistan again.

He further said that the entire nation salutes the bravery and patriotism of its Pakistan Army. But it



is a foolish thought to put away this constitution of ethical standards.

It is necessary that the politicians must resolve their political differences through negotiations, but now the

entire nation is standing by the side of its Pakistan Army and the people who commit terrorism and attacks under the guise of politics or love of power shema will come to the field and hold them accountable. The government is clear and transparent in making and ensuring peace.

He said to make a lesson to the criminals by conducting an investigation impartially.

May 9th incidents where the Pakistan Army is saddened by the incident and the people of Pakistan are inseparable.

He further expressed that, Even the power of the whole world cannot destroy their unity of Pakistan.

He further said that the people are very disappointed to see the problems facing the country this time.

Important meeting of youth in connection with restoration of 4G/3G service in valley Shakai SWL

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: Internet service has been suspended in various areas of the district of Lower South Waziristan for several weeks, causing concern among people. In this regard, the youth of Shakai Valley held an important meeting in Shakai Bazar Mughal Khel Market, in which it was decided that they will not sit down until the restoration of Internet i.e. 3G and 4G.

At the first opportunity, they will take Wana Olasi Pasoon (Wana Public movement) into confidence, after which they will start their protest for the restoration of the Internet.

Amir Hamza, a local political and social figure, expressed regret over the shutdown of the internet in the meeting, that the world has been made a global village by the Internet, but it is a matter of great regret that even in this modern era, we are being deprived of the facilities of the Internet.

He said that the Internet is the basic right of the residents of Lower South Waziristan, it is extremely unfair to deprive the citizens of this right. In order to achieve this right, the youth have decided that in the first phase, Wana Olasi Pasoon (Wana Public movement) will be taken into confidence in this regard. If the Internet is restored through their efforts, the protest will lose its justification. But in case of non-restoration, help will be sought from "Wana Olasi Pasoon" to make the protest successful and this organized protest will continue till the restoration of the Internet in Lower South Waziristan.

Local people say that in any case we will demand 3G 4G and 4G restoration from the federal government and the Ministry of Interior, Because this is our basic right, we will first inform the higher authorities to restore this right and If they do not take notice of this, then the youth of the area will come out for full protest.

Islamabad
15° - 23° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr	3:28 am
Zohr	12:04 pm
Asr	4:59 pm
Maghrib	7:03 pm
Isha	8:41 pm

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police)	15
Bomb Disposal	15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/	
Islamabad	1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance	1122 &
& Rescue Services	4451122
Motorway Police	9266044
Motorway Police	9270601-20

Women Police Stations

Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

ENQUIRY

Edhi Ambulance	115
PIA Flight Info	114
PIA Cargo	9280979
Railway Inquiry	117
Railway Exchange	9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi	5555489
CAA	9281092

HOSPITALS

CMH	561111
MH	561116
MH	561116
Cantt Hospital	9270907-11
DHQ	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-7
Holy Family	9290322-7
PIMS	9261170-79
Polyclinic	9218300-09
Shifa International	4603666

DEPARTMENTS

CDA	9221334-43
CDA	9208301-04
Met Office	9250360-6
RDA	5555864
TMA	5770886
Cantonment Board	9270151-3
Islamabad Metropolitan	
Corporation	9209224
Potohar Town	9209224
Rawal Town	5773343

COMPLAINTS

Water Tanker Service	
E-7, F-10 & F-11	9204654
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8	9203883
G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8	9266316
Wapda Islamabad	9217579-80
Sui Gas Complaint	119, 9272249

Objective communication a must for trust in families: Speakers

Tooba Khan

ISLAMABAD : Speakers at a seminar on "Demographic Trends and Families in Pakistan" said the new age has unfolded many unusual challenges for the families. Disintegration and individualism have taken over the conventionally common lifestyle. Dependence on new age tools and gadgets has increased for guidance and engagement that is unnecessary most of the time.

The seminar was organized by Devcom-Pakistan and ICLC in collaboration with the Women Development Centre (WDC G-7/1) of the Federal Ministry of Human Rights in Thursday to mark UN International Day of Families. Devcom-Pakistan Executive Director Munir Ahmed was the guest of honour. Other guest speakers included WDC head Ismat Afridi, ICLC founder Sibtain Raza Lodhi, educationist Noshaba Shaukat, Hina Sadozai and Tahira Naimat.

Speaking on the occasion, Devcom-Pakistan Executive



Director Munir Ahmed said we have touched the redline of 250 million population. Lack of resources and economic opportunities have created frustration and disintegration in the families. One key factor is the new gadgets that have taken the common space of families. Lack of convergence of conventional and new thoughts is another challenge that has differently framed the society. To combat the increasing disintegration of families, we need to promote emotional intelligence-based communication, active listening, tolerance to new approaches and conflicting ideas.

Munir Ahmed said more than 37 percent of women are unmarried for one or the other reason. Internal and external migration for employment

has also caused disintegration whereas joint family businesses could have helped around their vicinity. Meanwhile elders and parents need to learn adherence to the aspirations of the young. Be a role model in setting up morals and values. Only active brainstorming with young people helps them understand the pros and cons of any single matter. Let them make decisions and stand by them if their decisions go wrong. They have the ability to learn from their unwise decisions.

Speaking to the young, Munir Ahmed said your parents and elders are your best friends, mentors and well-wishers that no-one else can be. Your subtle and elusive communication will bridge the gap of trust with them. They have solutions to all

your problems and challenges. Take them on board. Others will take advantage of the situation.

Ismat Afridi said women have been playing their role as the backbone of families and society. But, unfortunately their education, health and economic empowerment were compromised. They were also not taken into the decision making process. Gradually with the changing times, the role and responsibilities have been charged. We need to understand the contemporary challenges.

Hina Sadozai urged the youth to refine their thoughts, improve objective communication and handle the situations with emotional intelligence.

Sibtain Raza Lodhi said Lions Clubs have promoting integration of society through multifaceted activities. On many occasions, families were engaged in a variety of initiatives.

Noshaba Shaukat urged a systematic approach in grooming of the young generation based on the morals and values.

Ulema to raise public awareness on health harms of Sugary Drinks.



Hussna Khattak

KARACHI: The growing burden of the diet related non communicable diseases is haunting the development of Pakistan. The religious leaders of the country shall play their role to help raising awareness among public on the harmful effects of the sugary drinks. An Ulema conference was organized in this regard by Pakistan National Heart Association (PANAH) at local hotel in Karachi. The conference was attended by a large number of Ulema, civil society representatives, health professionals and journalists. The guests included Dr. Fiaz Ranjha, ex DG Health, Mufti Zubair Usmani, Mufti Tariq Masood, Mufti Fazal Subhan, Allama Hayat Abbas, Mufti Najeeb Ahmed Khan, Mr. Munawar Hussain, Consultant Food Policy Program at Global Health Advocacy Incubator. Mr. Sanaullah Grumman, General Secretary PANAH hosted the event.

Dr. Fayyaz Ranjha said that we must ensure balanced diet in our day to day life and stop using unhealthy foods like sugary drinks. Public awareness on health harms of sugary drinks is the need of the hour and Ulema can give this awareness very effectively in Friday Khutaba.

Unhealthy diet is top reason for diseases and deaths in Pakistan. Peoples are dying every minute due to diabetes, heart diseases, cancers and other chronic diseases. These precious lives could be saved by adopting healthier choices in the diet" said by Fiaz Ranjha. "Ulema have great respect in Pakistani society and people listen to them more than anyone else. Sugary drinks are among the major contributors to these diseases. Ulema shall help raising awareness among public on health harms of sugary drinks and other unhealthy foods choices during Jumam prayers and community gatherings" he added.

Mr. Munawar Hussain, Consultant Food Policy Program at Global Health Advocacy Incubator while referring to International Diabetes Federation's Atlas said "Pakistan is ranked 3rd highest globally with 33 million people living with diabetes in 2021. If no policy action taken immediately, the number of people living with diabetes will increase to 62 million by 2045". He added "reducing consumption of sugary drinks can save thousands of the lives annually and save hospital expenditure.

Mr. Sana Ullah Ghumman said that we are working since last 40 years to save the health of our people from the menace of non-communicable diseases in Pakistan. PANAH is working with policy makers to make unhealthy diets less affordable for public to reduce its consumption. Today we came to Ulema to seek their support on this noble cause of public health. We request them to use their platform against the harms of unhealthy foods like sugary drinks.

Ulema urged their support for this noble cause and assured that they will educate general public on health harms of sugary drinks and demand government to increase tax on these unhealthy drinks instead of basic necessities of life

Careem launches mass-commute service

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Careem, the pioneer of ride-hailing services in Pakistan, introduces mass-commute services for corporate clients across all major cities in Pakistan as part of Careem for Business (C4B).

In light of the sharp rise in inflation, Careem's mass-commute service helps make corporate travel more affordable for companies and businesses, enabling them to save up to 40% cost. The mass-commute service differs from the car-pooling service Careem introduced in 2022, as it allows up to 22 people to share a full-sized vehicle for their daily commute.

The service consists of all types/size of vehicles including Hiacs, Coasters, Hijets and is ideal for companies that offer transportation services for their employees' daily commute as well as companies that arrange corporate events both inside and outside the city. Careem also provides a host of value-added features including; optimized mapped routes, dedicated points of contact to address any queries or concerns, prescheduled bookings according to pick/drop locations, days, and timings and a bill-to-company option.

"We understand the challenges that companies face in terms of providing safe, efficient, and cost-effective transportation for their colleagues. We have developed customized mobility solutions keeping in mind the evolving needs of our corporate customers. Solutions like mass commute, car pool, inter-city and premium rides enable us to offer the best experience and value for money to our clients", said Imran Saleem, General Manager Ride Hailing at Careem Pakistan.

Currently, C4B provides corporate services to over 550 companies across Pakistan, offering tailor-made services to fit the specific needs of its clientele. Notable companies that use the mass-commute service are: Daraz, Fly Jinnah, Hamdard Labs, Tri Pack, TATA Pakistan, Gerrys Dnata, Mindstrom and PHI. Similarly, the carpooling service has been used by companies including: Nestle, House of Habib, AirSial, Packages, BASF, SadaPay, Sapphire, Enfrashare, YAP etc. Other notable C4B clients include: Jazz, PTCL, Fly Jinnah, Engro, Khaadi, Ufone, Philip Morris, LCI, Maersk, IBA, AKU, Descon and K-Electronic.

Who responsible

ISLAMABAD: A view of the garbage dump and plastic bags in the nullah at sector E-11, as it may cause blockage of water during rainy weather, which needs the attention of concern authorities.



Photo: Online by Raja Farid

FFC Energy Wind Power Plant celebrates decade of excellence

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: FFC Energy Limited (FFCEL) "Pakistan's pioneering Wind Power Project", a subsidiary of Fauji Fertilizer Company, celebrated 10 years of its commercial operations at FFC Energy Plant Site with the leaders of wind industry, senior government officials, and notables from the community.

FFCEL is dedicated in its drive towards transition to a clean and green future by promoting innovative renewable energy solutions. The wind farm, therefore, since incep-



tion, has exported an impressive 1,175 GWh of clean energy abating 745,000 tons of CO2. FFCEL remains country's most experienced Wind IPP carrying out complete O&M activities of its plant in compliance with OEM and DNV-GL certification guidelines. It has also made significant progress in

provision of services to Pakistan wind industry in collaboration with OLIVE Technical Services.

Remaining at the forefront to serve the community of Jhampir and surrounding villages, FFCEL in past 10 years has spent over PKR 50 million on CSR projects

addressing the basic needs of the community in the field of health, education, and capacity building.

MD & CEO FFCEL, Maj Gen Asif Ali, HI (M) (Retd) commemorating FFCEL's decade of excellence, delightfully expressed his thoughts on attainment of Company's significant milestone towards a sustainable, greener future for coming generations. He also expressed his appreciation and gratitude towards employees, partners, government officials and the local community for their unwavering support over the years.

Pakistan Army is our pride: Chaudhry Muhammad Akram,

MA Rasheed

FAISALABAD: Senior Vice President Anjuman Tajran City, President Anjuman Tajran Press Market, Member Municipal Corporation Faisalabad Chaudhry Muhammad Akram & others have said in their statement that Pakistan Army is the protector of Pakistan and the people of Pakistan in all and sundry.

The people of Pakistan not only fully support the Pakistan Army but also take pride in their army.

It was further expressed that the army of our country is completely strong in every way & the bravery of Pakistani army has been acknowledged by the whole world. We love our army more than our own lives because our army protects us caring for our lives much. Army salutes the martyrs of Pakistan. If there is an army then it is Pakistan and if there is Pakistan then we are!

He further said that the people and the armed forces of Pakistan are inseparable for each other, that is, they are one and the same, and the highest example of morality will have to be established between them.

PIDE & KIU Conference concluded today

News Desk

GILGIT: Today was the last day of the Conference hosted by the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), in collaboration with the Karakoram International University (KIU), Gilgit.

Dr. Nadeem ul Haque and VC KIU shared their thoughts about the Day 1 of the conference Gilgit Baltistan Beyond Mountains.

Dr. Haque said that the inclusion of society is a critical factor in the development process. It is essential to ensure that development initiatives are for the people, by the people, and for the people. To achieve sustainable development, it is crucial to involve the local community in every step of the process. Female entrepreneurship is a vital component of development. Women are essen-

tial contributors to the economy, and their participation in business ventures can lead to significant growth and development.

Panel Discussion on "Markets, Regulations and Border Trade" was moderated by Dr. Ahmed Waqas. Speakers from GB shed light on how markets, regulations, and border trade can contribute to the economy.

Aziz Ali Dad said that, as it is widely known, there are two prominent models in the political and economic spheres: socialist and liberal. The West has predominantly embraced the latter, which prioritizes limited government involvement in the markets and allows for their development. However, Pakistan's economic landscape is quite different, with the government's presence being prevalent, accounting for 70% of the econ-

omy. This has resulted in high costs of regulations. As for the region of Gilgit Baltistan, there are restrictions on visiting the border, making it challenging to explore its potential resources and do border trade with other countries.

Other speakers said that Gilgit Baltistan is an exceptional destination that offers much more than just tourism. Our focus is on enhancing its market structure, including the real estate market. However, government regulations have made it challenging for us to develop the land. Unfortunately, the lack of a proper market concept and strict government regulations deter new entrepreneurs from entering the market.

The moderator concluded the session by paying special attention to the main markets, tourism, construction, and education

in the region. He also said that like other places, Gilgit Baltistan is also facing regulatory problems.

In the session on "Perpetual Energy Crisis," speakers told that the perpetual energy crisis in Gilgit is a serious issue that requires immediate attention. There are several legal framework issues that are contributing to the problem. One of the main issues is the delay in government approvals, which is generating further issues. This delay is causing a lack of new investors due to government regulations, which is hindering progress in the region. In order to address this problem, there needs to be an independent legal framework that can support the development of energy projects in Gilgit.

Furthermore, Mr. Liro Ersado, a Representative of the World



Bank, while presenting the "World Bank: State of Human Capital in Pakistan," said that Pakistan needs to create safe and supportive schools. It can reap dividends from two phases of the demographic transition. As Pakistan's working-age popula-

tion is about 60% time to reap demographic transition. Pakistan can reverse 40 years of lagging growth and become a growth leader by investing in Human Capital.

In Gilgit, Pakistan, the labor market is in decline. However,

there are four potential areas where the region can excel: leisure industry, horticulture, trade and commerce, and minerals as well as education. Unfortunately, there is no clear education policy in place to help support these areas. Therefore, there is a need for educational reforms in Gilgit to improve the quality of education and equip students with the skills they need to succeed in these fields.

The Conference concluded with a vote of thanks. Dr. Nadeem Ul Haque VC PIDE, and Dr. Durre Nayab, Pro VC PIDE, showed gratitude all the members who arranged this important event. They especially thanked Prof Dr. Atta Ullah Shah VC, KIU, Mr. Tazeem Akhtar, DG PR, KIU, and other members of the KIU faculty who worked tirelessly to make the Conference a success.

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India can't hide the reality by holding G20 Summit in Srinagar-I

India, which holds the presidency of the G20 for 2023 will be holding the G20 summit/sessions/tracks in what is widely acknowledged as the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir Region. The Group of Twenty (G20) is the premier forum for international economic cooperation. It plays an important role in shaping and strengthening global architecture and governance on all major international economic issues. India holds the Presidency of the G20 from 1 December 2022 to 30 November 2023.

The G20 was founded in 1999 after the Asian financial crisis as a forum for the Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors to discuss global economic and financial issues. The G20 was upgraded to the level of Heads of State/Government in the wake of the global economic and financial crisis of 2007, and, in 2009, was designated the "premier forum for international economic cooperation". The G20 Summit is held annually, under the leadership of a rotating Presidency. The G20 initially focused largely on broad macroeconomic issues, but it has since expanded its agenda to inter-alia include trade, sustainable development, health, agriculture, energy, environment, climate change, and anti-corruption. The G20 Presidency is responsible for bringing together the G20 agenda in consultation with other members and in response to developments in the global economy.

The Group of Twenty (G20) comprises 19 countries (Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Türkiye, United Kingdom and United States) and the European Union. The G20 members represent around 85% of the global GDP, over 75% of the global trade, and about two-thirds of the world population.

India's decision to host a meeting of Group of 20 (G20) countries in Srinagar, part of Indian-administered Kashmir, has been slammed by Pakistan, which called it an "irresponsible move". In a foreign ministry statement, Pakistan expressed its "strong indignation" after the Indian government announced Srinagar as the venue for the G20 Tourism Working Group meeting scheduled to take place from May 22 to 24. "India's irresponsible move is the latest in a series of self-serving measures to perpetuate its illegal occupation of Jammu and Kashmir in sheer disregard of the United Nations Security Council resolutions and in violation of the principles of the United Nations Charter and international law. Pakistan vehemently condemns these moves," the statement read. "Such events cannot hide the reality of Jammu and Kashmir being an internationally

recognized dispute that has remained on the agenda of United Nations Security Council for over seven decades," the Pakistani statement added. "For a country that has a grandiose vision about itself, and its place in the world, India has once more demonstrated that it is unable to act as a responsible member of the international community."

Readers, The Himalayan territory of Kashmir has been a flashpoint between India and Pakistan since they gained independence from British rule in 1947. The two nuclear-armed neighbours have fought three wars, two of which were over Kashmir. The Kashmir issue further flared up four years ago when India's Hindu nationalist government, headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, revoked Article 370 of the Constitution of India, which granted Indian-administered Kashmir partial autonomy.

India have been continuously involved in human rights violations in Occupied Kashmir which were also pointed out by Amnesty International Indian Chapter last year. According to that report, Indian authorities must ensure a prompt, independent and impartial investigation into the recent unlawful killings of civilians by armed groups in Kashmir, Amnesty International India said. The killings of three people belonging to the

Hindu minority community adds to the long-standing violence against civilians that has been escalating since the unilateral revocation of Jammu & Kashmir's special autonomy on 5 August 2019 by the Government of India.

"The Indian authorities must take urgent steps for the protection of the people of Kashmir. For decades, people of Jammu & Kashmir have suffered from gross human rights violations and abuses. The sheer impunity with which the human rights of the people of Jammu & Kashmir have been systematically disregarded by Indian authorities must end if we are to fulfil the rights of victims and help ensure that such abuses against civilians are not repeated," said Aakar Patel, chair of Amnesty International India Board. Since the revocation of Jammu & Kashmir's special status in 2019, the Indian authorities, have arrested many human rights defenders including journalists and activists under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, India's primary counter-terrorism law. At least 36 journalists have faced interrogation, raids, threats or physical assault for their reporting until now. According to Access Now, people in Jammu & Kashmir faced at least 85 internet shutdowns in 2021 - one of the highest in the world. The shutdowns were imposed for long periods of time and in violation of India's Supreme Court that held that internet shutdowns must satisfy the tests of necessity and proportionality.

To be Continued

CPEC created over 155,000 local jobs in Pakistan

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which is marking its 10th anniversary this year, has played an important role in bilateral cooperation between China and Pakistan and created over 155,000 local jobs for Pakistani people, China's National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) has said.

During a regular press conference, the NDRC said the CPEC had achieved fruitful results, including the Gwadar Port and relevant cooperation projects in energy, infrastructure and industry.

"Specifically, multiple highway construction programs are progressing on schedule. Power plants that have entered commercial operation provide nearly one-third of Pakistan's national electricity demand, having changed the situation of power shortage in the country," it added.

The Gwadar Port co-built by China and Pakistan has made great progress in creating a regional logistics hub and industrial base.

In addition, the construction of the first phase of the Rashakai Special Economic Zone in Pakistan had been completed and achieved positive results in business attraction, said the NDRC.

As of the end of 2022, the CPEC had created 236,000 jobs, and the number of Pakistani workers reached 155,000.

The NDRC vowed to accelerate cooperation in transport, energy and industrial sectors and areas related to people's livelihoods, and further expand collaboration in the agricultural, mineral and technological fields, Global Times reported on Thursday.

Meanwhile, in order to expand the influence of the CPEC, the foreign ministers of China, Afghanistan and Pakistan have agreed to extend the program to Afghanistan, to further advance cooperation under the BRI.

As a landlocked country, Afghanistan mainly relies on Pakistani ports for international trade. Afghanistan has become the first among landlocked Central Asian countries to benefit from using the Chinese-invested Gwadar Port in Pakistan for future cross-border trade.

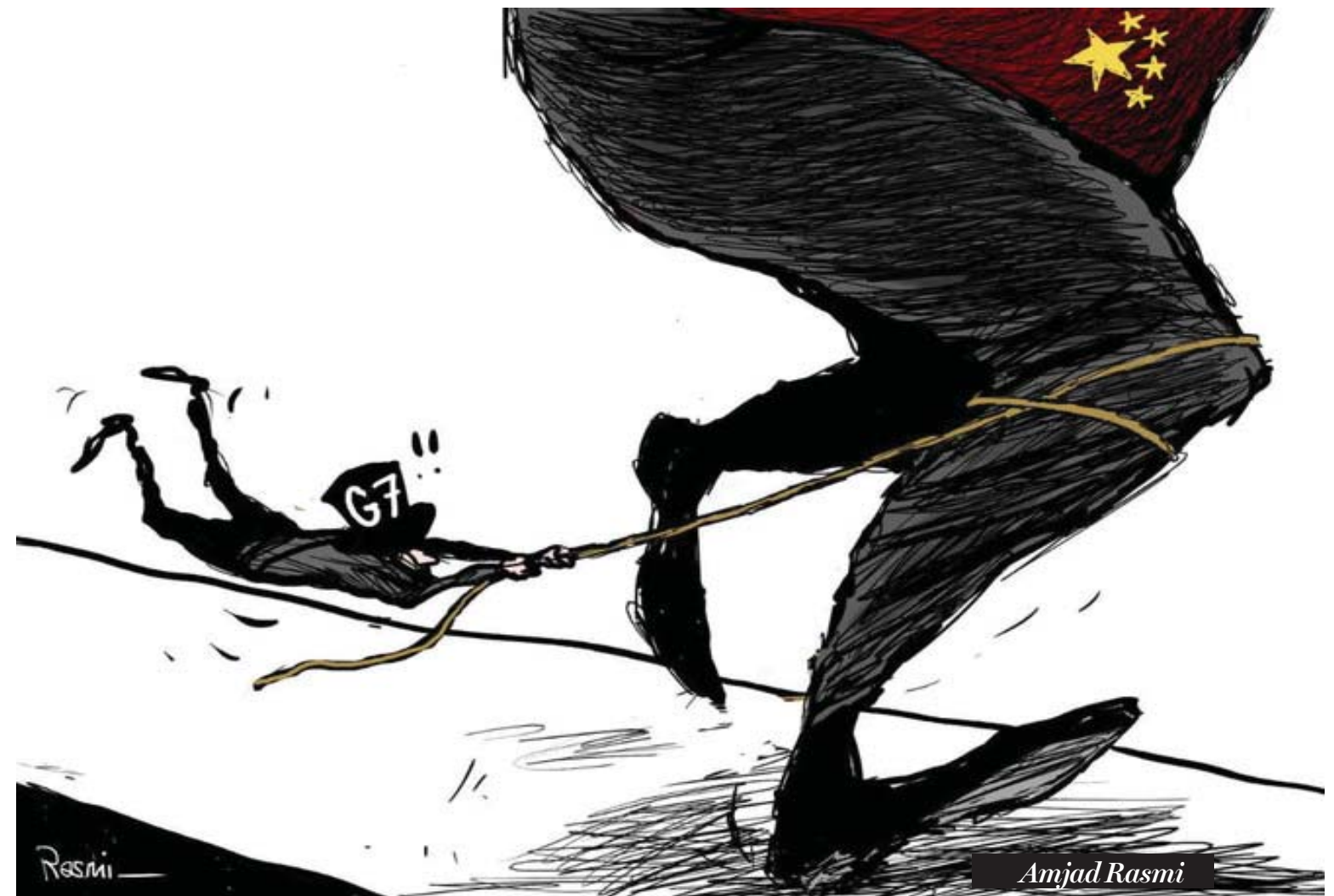
After several rounds of consultations with relevant authorities in Pakistan, the Gwadar Port finally obtained an e-export trade license with Afghanistan in the second half of 2019, according to China's Ministry of Commerce.

In 2020, Afghanistan imported 43,000 tons of fertilizer via the port, contributing to its agricultural development.



Analysis

Abdul Basit Alvi



Rasmi

Amjad Rasmi

Ransacking of public property, setting fire to military memorials acts of terrorism

Dr Saeed Ahmad Ali

From a security point of view, people of Pakistan, being members of a patriotic nation, are facing unprecedented events, trends, transformations and challenges these days. Some South Asian nations like Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh and Southeast Asian country Burma (Myanmar) are trying to transform themselves into stable democratic nations. On the other hand, Pakistan's neighbouring India is posing challenges and threats to all regional nations, and proving to be an open danger to the smaller countries.

The neighboring country is posing a very different form of challenge to Pakistan and its security, be it geopolitical influence or proxy terrorism attacks.

It has engaged in a proxy war with Pakistan, though it is destined to fail eventually, yet the prevailing situation is of a different kind, as the enemy has launched its representatives within the country.

Pakistan, time and again, has presented several dossiers containing irrefutable proofs of the Indian-sponsored destabilisation and terrorism incidents in the country, and called on the world nations to stop its rogue actions for preserving region's peace and security.

On May 9, 2023, workers of a political party, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) started violent protests across the country and ransacked public and private properties, after the arrest of party chairman Imran Khan.

Defence Analyst Lt-General (ret'd) Naeem Khalid Lodhi told APP that the current protests and political destabilisation in the country are exhibiting the signals of foreign masters. However, it is a good omen that the nation has rejected such puppets by standing in solidar-

ity with the Pakistan Army and its martyrs, acknowledging their sacrifices.

"Pakistan is our motherland and we will never allow any kind of chaos or instability or disorder here at the behest of our cunning, local or foreign, enemy," he resolved.

Burning of the Lahore Corps Commander's residence (Jinnah House), military memorials, and the public and private properties are unfortunate incidents and the nation has condemned and rejected all forms of violence and attempts to disrupt peace in the country.

PPP leader and former president Asif Ali Zardari, in his recent statement, said that after the arrest of Imran Khan, eruption of riots in the cities was regrettable and shameful. He said he was in jail for 14 years, but never allowed party workers to take the law into their hands. "The acts of harming public property and spreading chaos will not be tolerated," Zardari warned.

Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb strongly condemned the mob attacks on the building and offices of the state-run Radio Pakistan and the Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) in Peshawar. "The attack on the offices of Radio Pakistan and APP by PTI's armed gangs was condemnable and deplorable," she said in a message, issued by her office.

The minister said that following the pattern of a similar attack on PTV headquarters in 2014 allegedly on Imran Khan's instructions, the PTI workers attacked Radio Pakistan and APP buildings now. She said that violence against the government employees, vandalism and damage to property were the acts of terrorism.

Mohsin Khan, a retired army personnel, said that the entire nation stands by its brave armed forces. He demanded the government take strict action against those who torched public properties, including those belonging to the military. Mohsin said if any institution was trying to

bring the PTI back to power would also be held accountable, and blamed Imran Khan's government for not delivering a single development project in the past three-and-a-half years.

During the attack on Radio Pakistan's building in Peshawar on May 10, the miscreants torched around 1500-2000 valuable and masterpieces of literary books of renowned Sufi Poet Rehman Baba and freedom fighter Khushal Khan Khattak.

A spokesperson for the Punjab police said that so far a total of 697 miscreants had been arrested in the provincial metropolis and 38 FIRs [first information reports] are registered against the perpetrators belonging to the PTI at various police stations.

He said that arrested rioters were involved in attacks on sensitive installations, police force, vehicles of the law-enforcement agencies, and private buildings and cars of citizens on May 9. As many as 162 senior and junior police officials were injured in the attacks, carried out by the charged PTI mob in Lahore and other parts of the province, he added.

He said that legal action was being taken against people who destroyed and set ablaze private and government property, vehicles and tortured citizens. He said the miscreants set on fire 22 police vehicles during attacks in Lahore.

Meanwhile, rallies are being taken out across the country to express solidarity with the Pakistan armed forces. Seminars are also being organised in this regard by a large number of ulema, community leaders, journalists, lawyers, intellectuals, civil society figures, noted personalities and leaders belonging to different religions, across the country.

Tributes are being paid to the officers and soldiers of the Pak Army. While addressing the rallies, the speakers strongly condemned defamation of the Pakistan Army by the leaders and activists of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf.

'Remedy for Hatred of Murderous Thoughts'-II

After that, Ta'mah hid the shield in a Jew's house. Ta'mah was accused of stealing the shield, so he swore by Allah that he would not take it. The owner of the shield said, "We saw some traces of flour in his (Ta'mah) house." And after he took an oath that he did not steal it, they left him and followed the trail of flour to the Jew's house where they found the shield. The Jew stated, "Ta'mah hid it in my house!" Consequently, Ta'mah's family went to the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) and asked him to defend their relative. The Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) was about to punish the Jew. However, the revelation was revealed indicating that the truth was otherwise, but the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) did not hide any of this revelation. In fact, he announced that the Jew was innocent and that the Muslim had stolen the shield. **Prophet Muhammad's justice between his wives**

Another example of the Prophet's justice was clear inside the Prophet's house as the Prophet (peace be upon him) used to be totally fair when dividing matters between his wives, both when travelling and when resident in Medina. Aisha (may Allah be pleased with her) said, "When the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) wanted to travel, he used to draw lots to decide which one of his wives would go with him, and he would take the one whose name was drawn related by Al-Bukhari.

In fact, the Prophet (peace be upon him) warned his followers about giving one wife preferential treatment over another one. He (peace be upon him) said,

Whoever has two wives and favours one of them over the other, he will come on the Resur-

rection Day with one of his sides leaning related by Muslim.

Is it possible to love one's wives or children equally? Does the Islamic legislation require this from us?

Prophet Muhammad's justice between his children

One example of this was related by Amer. He (may Allah be pleased with him) said,

I heard An-Nu'man ibn Bashheer (may Allah be pleased with them), when he was standing on the pulpit, say, 'my father Abu 'Atiyah gave me a gift.' His wife, Amra bint Rawahah, said, 'I will not agree to this until the Messenger of Allah bears witness to it!' So my father went to the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him), and said, 'I have given my son from Amra bint Rawahah a gift, but she ordered me to ask you to bear witness to this, Oh Messenger of Allah.' The Prophet (peace be upon him) replied, 'Did you give the rest of your children a similar gift?' He replied, 'No.' So the Prophet (peace be upon him) said, 'Fear Allah and be just to your children.' He (peace be upon him) continued, 'So go home and give back the gift.' related by Al-Bukhari

The religion of Prophet Muhammad is a religion of justice.

"If the world wants to free itself from evil, they should follow this religion. It is truly a religion that entails cooperation, peace, and justice which is implemented by a legal legislation"

Justice and mercy are some of the basic features of Prophet Muhammad's character

"In his character are two qualities which are some of the most beautiful qualities that a human can have; these are justice and mercy"

To be Continued



Analysis

MA Rashid

2023 Yangtze River Tourism Overseas Promotion Season kicked off In Pakistan

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The opening ceremony for the 2023 Yangtze River Tourism Overseas Promotion Season took place in Yichang, in Hubei Province of Central China, on May 5. The 2023 "Yangtze River Tourism Overseas Promotion Season" is jointly organized by the Network of International Cultural Link Entities in cooperation with the competent departments of culture and tourism in ten provinces (municipalities), embassies and consulates, Chinese Cultural Centers and overseas tourism offices and other institutions of China.



to showcase the successes of ecological civilization construction and sustainable development in the Yangtze River basin while also promoting the Yangtze River culture to the people of Pakistan as well as to the global community. This year, the promotion season will last through the end of June.

The Yangtze River is the longest river in Asia and the third-longest river in the world. China's top culture and tourism authority has released 10 tour routes and travel itineraries that will enable tourists to experience the culture and history of the Yangtze River while also ensuring its protection.

According to China's Ministry of Culture and Tourism, the new routes were created under the direction of the Outline of the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-25) for National Economic and Social Development and the Long-Range Objectives through the Year 2035.

The framework for the "10 National Select Yangtze River Tourist Routes," which includes the "Yangtze River International Golden Tourism Belt," was unveiled by the ministry at the 2023 Yangtze River Tourism Overseas Promotion Season. The tourism belt spans 11 provinces and municipalities in China and includes locations with a strong connection to the nature and ecology, rural vitalization,

intangible cultural heritage, and urban recreation. It also includes sites that are closely related to the origins of Chinese culture. A total of 38 provincial-level routes along the Yangtze River have been designed and published in the Boutique Route Book of the Yangtze River International Golden Tourism Belt, which contains travel information on route planning, road conditions, notable scenic spots and travel tips.

Tourism is a very effective means to promote conservation of the Yangtze River, but it's also crucial to incorporate the "soul" of the river into the tourism sector. It is imperative that thorough research be done on the river's ancient heritage as well as that a museum be built to educate visitors about its rich history and culture.

Through events like this, China Cultural Centre in Pakistan hopes to fully appreciate the significance of preserving the river's culture and role in Chinese civilization while also demonstrating its contemporary significance to the Pakistani and worldwide audiences.

thinkPVC Making Waves in the Construction Industry with its Innovative and Sustainable Products



Commerce Desk

KARACHI: thinkPVC, a unique concept store and one-stop solution for sustainable construction products in Pakistan, is creating momentum in the industry with its innovative and eco-friendly products. The Company recently participated as a Conference Sponsor of the 18th International IAPEX Exhibition 2023 in Karachi, where it showcased latest products and solutions for the construction sector.

The exhibition was attended by some of the most renowned architects in the country, including A. Shahid Abdullah, Ali Naqvi, Aziz, Zehra, as well as young students from the Indus Valley School of Architecture. Together, they showcased a range of PVC-inclusive sustainable structures, designed to provide flood resilience housing.

One of the highlights of the exhibition was thinkPVC's SPC (Stone Plastic Composite) flooring, which proved to be an indulgent experience for the architects. They were enticed by the product's utility and characteristics and praised its durability, water resistance, and eco-friendliness.

"We are proud to be at the forefront of the sustainable construction movement in Pakistan," said Muhammad Idrees, Director thinkPVC and Chief Commercial Officer of Engro Polymer & Chemicals. "Our products are not only environmentally friendly, but also designed to withstand the toughest conditions. We are committed to providing our customers with the best quality products that will stand the test of time," he added.

The participation of thinkPVC in the 18th International IAPEX Exhibition 2023 is a testament to the Company's commitment to innovation and sustainability. With its cutting-edge products and solutions, thinkPVC is poised to make a significant impact in the construction industry in Pakistan and beyond.

Yasmin Dar will be elected Lord Mayor of Manchester

Arif Chaudhary

MANCHESTER: Muslim woman of Kashmiri origin Yasmin Dar will be elected Lord Mayor of Manchester. The founding chairman of Jammu and Kashmir Self-determination International, Raja Najabat Hussain (star of Pakistan) has expressed his happiness on the election of Yasmin Dar, the UK chairperson of his movement, as the Lord Mayor of Manchester and said in his special statement that the entire UK in the recent elections, three Lord Mayors and four councilors are Kashmiris and Kashmiris have been winning in British politics for a long time and the brave, fearless, fearless and courageous woman councilor of our movement, Yasmin Dar, became the Lord Mayor.



The mayor of Manchester has made the Kashmiri nation proud by being elected. Raja Najabat Hussain added that among those elected from other areas of the UK are Councilor Muhammad Ayub, Lord Mayor of Bolton, Councilor Majid Khan, Lord Mayor of Stoke-on-Trent, Councilor Dr. Zahid Chauhan, Mayor of Oldham, Lady Councilor Tafheen Sharif, Mayor of Teamside, Councilor Arif Khan, Mayor Burnley, Councilor Pervaiz Akhtar, Mayor of Blackburn, Councilor Raja Ilyas Khan, Mayor of Woking, Councilor Fayaz Ahmed, Mayor of Banbury and others are included. Raja Najabat Hussain Founder Chairman Jammu Kashmir Self-Determination Movement International and Movement Patron Sardar Abdul Rehman Khan, Movement UK Vice Chairman Amjad Hussain Mughal, Movement Vice Chairman Salar Mumtaz Ahmed Chishti, Councilor Sabiha Khan Chairperson British Muslim Women Forum UK Tehreek's Chairperson for North of England Councilor Naila Sharif, Tehreek's Chairperson for West Midlands Asia Hussain, Tehreek's Chairman for South England Abdul Wahab Qadri, Tehreek's UK Chairman for Youth Wing Zeeshan Arif and others all the newly elected Lord Mayors across the UK. Congratulations to the mayors and councilors from the bottom of my heart and to all of them.

Raja Najabat Hussain says that the Kashmiri and Pakistani community living in the UK has always raised the flags of success in various fields in the British society and all the newly elected Lord Mayors, Mayors and Councilors will continue to support Kashmiris in achieving their right to self-determination. We will support the decades-long peaceful movement and take practical steps to highlight the call of the people of Occupied Kashmir to the whole world by being our voice.

Interactive session held at ISSI on 'Global and Regional Environment and Pakistan's Position in the Region'

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Centre for Afghanistan, Middle East and Africa (CAMEA) at the Institute of Strategic Studies, Islamabad hosted the participants of Human Resource Development Programme (HRDP) for Professionals at the International Islamic University (IIU). The interactive session was addressed by Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, Director General, ISSI. Ms Amina Khan, Director CAMEA, in her introductory remarks welcomed the guests and briefed the group about the working of ISSI.



Extending a warm welcome to the participants, DG Amb. Sohail Mahmood highlighted the key features of the evolving global and regional environment and the dynamics shaping Pakistan's foreign policy. Among other things, he outlined key determinants of states' foreign policy — including geography, identity, history, resource endowment, leadership, economic imperatives, overarching strategic concepts, and

role of national institutions. He also underscored the vital linkage between states' internal strength and their external influence.

Amb. Sohail Mahmood underscored that the current international environment was extremely complex and fluid and the changes were

taking place at an incredibly fast pace. States were facing a formidable challenge to adjust, while keeping the national interest as the fundamental guiding principle.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Abdul Fareed Brohi from the Da'wah Academy, IIU.

Int'l Museum Day celebrated in Bahawalpur

Asim Tanveer

BAHAWALPUR: Setting goals that contribute to human well-being, sustainable social development and reduction of direct impact on the environment is essential for creating a sustainable future. Present-day museums are working in different dimensions to achieve these goals. Going beyond the traditional definitions and objectives, museums are playing their positive and comprehensive role in the context of objective situations and events. These views were expressed by Director Bahawalpur Museum Muhammad Zubair Rabbani while presiding over a seminar organized in the



museum on the occasion of International Museum Day. This year's theme is Museums, Sustainability and Well Being, given by the International Council of Museums.

Mohammad Zubair Rabbani said that under the theme of this year's ICOM, museums are the places that can contribute to sustainable development goals such as combating social isolation,

improving mental health, reducing the effects of global warming and promoting social inclusion. Helps to ensure he said that programs like educational programs, creative exhibitions and research and workshops have been added to the annual event calendar of Bahawalpur Museum to achieve these goals.

Deputy Director Rashid

Ahmad Arshad said that museums are the most important means of knowing the evolution of human life and its cultural development, where under one roof the culture and civilization of different periods and other authentic information related to it are preserved. is done On this occasion, Chemist Sadia Noreen informed about the measures taken in the museum for the protection of museum artifacts and their longevity. Addressing the seminar, Public Relations Officer Nadia Noreen briefed about the history of the International Council of Museums and the steps taken by this platform for the development of museums every year.

Lucky Cement announces expansion of clinker production capacity in Iraq



Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Pakistan's leading cement manufacturer Lucky Cement Limited is pleased to announce its strategic move to enhance clinker production capacity in Iraq. In line with the increasing demand for cement in Iraq, driven by the resurgence of economic activity and a surge in construction projects, Lucky Cement's joint venture company with Al-Shumookh group, Najmat-Al-Samawah (NAS), has resolved to add a new clinker production line in Samawah, Iraq.

This expansion will boost the clinker production capacity by an additional 1.82 million tons per annum (MTPA), reinforcing Lucky Cement's commitment to meet Iraq's growing cement requirements and ensure a sustainable supply of clinker for the Joint Venture cement grinding facility in Basra, Iraq.

With the inclusion of this new clinker line, Lucky Cement's overall domestic and international capacities will be significantly enhanced. The updated capacities are as follows:

Lucky Cement Limited, Pezu, Lakki Marwat: 10.25 MTPA (Fully integrated cement plant)

Lucky Cement Limited, Karachi: 5.05 MTPA (Fully integrated cement plant)

Nyumba Ya Akiba, Democratic Republic of Congo: 1.31 MTPA (Fully integrated cement plant)

Al-Mabrooka Cement Company, Basra, Iraq: 1.74 MTPA (Cement grinding plant)

Najmat-Al-Samawah, Samawah, Iraq: 1.31 MTPA (Fully integrated cement plant)

Najmat-Al-Samawah, Samawah, Iraq: 1.82 MTPA (New clinker line)*

Unilever Pakistan champions renewable energy relieving national grid with approx. 2.3 million kWh annual production

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Unilever Pakistan has announced its partnership with K-Solar, a subsidiary of KE, to transition its operations to solar energy in Rahim Yar Khan and Karachi.

This initiative represents a significant step towards achieving Unilever's ambitious sustainability goals, including net zero emissions in its operations by 2030. Simultaneously, the firm will shed close to PKR 84 million a year in energy costs, facilitating the local economy by considerably reducing the strain on the national grid collectively generating approx 2.3 million Kwh through renewable sources.

Unilever Pakistan's Solar Captive Power Plant Phase 2 installation demonstrates their dedication to renewable energy solutions, leading to significant savings and CO2 reductions. At Futehally Chemicals Limited (FCL), the factory that manufactures Surf Excel for Unilever, the 362 kW system will save 496,035 kWh annually, reducing costs by approximately 18 million PKR and CO2 emissions by 233 metric tons.

The 1000 kW installation at Rahim Yar Khan Factory will save 1,430,886 kWh, saving approximately 53 million PKR and a CO2 reduction of 662 metric tons per year. The 250

kW system at Rahim Yar Khan Estate will save 357,721 kWh, resulting in cost savings of 13 million PKR and a CO2 reduction of 165 metric tons annually. Unilever Pakistan's investment in these projects reinforces their commitment to sustainability.

While Unilever's own factories, offices, research labs, data centers, warehouses, and distribution centers account for only 2% of its total greenhouse gas footprint, the company acknowledges the significance of these emissions and is committed to eliminating them entirely.

Abdul Hannan Ahmed Khan, Head of Supply Chain at Unilever Pakistan, expressed his



enthusiasm for this collabora-

tion, stating, "Unilever Pakistan is deeply committed to sustain-

able practices and minimizing our impact on the environment.

Hashim Raza, CEO of K-Solar, emphasized the significance of joint efforts in realizing a sustainable energy future. He stated, "We are thrilled to partner with Unilever Pakistan on this journey."

Unilever has been at the forefront of climate action for decades, consistently working towards reducing its carbon footprint. Recognizing the urgent need to eliminate fossil fuels entirely and transition to renewable energy sources, Unilever Pakistan has been well on its way with its proactive approach to address its greenhouse gas emissions.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
41,442.07	41,833.66
Day's High	Day's Low:
41,964.26	41,411.63
Index Value	Change
2,522,573,456	-391.59
Percentage	Time
-0.94%	18 May, 2023 5:00 pm
Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
7,742.30	+19.07
Percentage	Time
+0.25%	18 May, 4:35 pm GMT
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
33,305.94	-114.83
Percentage	Time
-0.34%	18 May, 1:20 pm GMT-4
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
30,573.93	+480.34
Percentage	Time
+1.60%	18 May, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	192.5	194.5
Bahrain Dinar	777.88	785.88
Canadian Dollar	214	216.2
China Yuan	42.07	42.47
Danish Krone	42.7	43.1
Euro	318	321
Hong Kong Dollar	37.31	37.66
Indian Rupee	3.56	3.67
Japanese Yen	2.25	2.3
Kuwaiti Dinar	952.27	961.27
Malaysian Ringgit	65.03	65.63
New Zealand \$	182.07	184.07
Norwegians Krone	27.57	27.87
Omani Riyal	760.2	768.2
Qatari Riyal	80.35	81.05
Saudi Riyal	78.5	79.3
Singapore Dollar	215	217
Swedish Korona	28.25	28.55
Swiss Franc	326.82	329.32
Thai Bhat	8.66	8.81
U.A.E Dirham	80.5	81.4
UK Pound Sterling	366	369
US Dollar	292	296

ICCI calls for Pak-Turkiye FTA to boost bilateral trade

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD : S.M. Tanveer, Minister for Industries and Commerce of Punjab said that Pakistan and Turkiye enjoy exemplary friendship and it is the right time that the business community of both countries should strive for developing strong trade ties that would be more beneficial for both nations. He said this while talking to Enes Malik Cetin, Commercial Counsellor of Turkiye during his visit to Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI).

Speaking on the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) said that there are immense business opportunities between Pakistan and Turkiye and both countries should sign a free trade agreement to boost bilateral trade up to their actual potential. He said that Pakistan and Turkiye had signed a preferential trade agreement in August 2022, which came into effect from 1st May 2023 and hoped that it would contribute to improve bilateral trade between the two countries.

Enes Malik Cetin, Commercial Counsellor of Turkiye said that his country considers Pakistan a very close friend and wants to strengthen trade ties with it. He said that keeping in view the success of PTA, Turkiye would consider FTA with Pakistan. He stressed for close collabora-



tion of ICCI with trade associations of Turkiye including MUSLIAD in order to explore all untapped areas of mutual cooperation between the two countries.

Faad Waheed, Senior Vice President ICCI said that Pakistan can export many products to Turkiye including textiles, pharmaceuticals, cement, marble at competitive prices and stressed that Turkiye should consider importing these products from Pakistan.

Engr. Azhar ul Islam Zafar, Vice President ICCI stressed for regular interaction between ICCI and Turkish Embassy to explore new areas of promoting business relations between Pakistan and Turkiye.

Khalid Iqbal Malik, former President ICCI said that both countries should focus on strong connectivity between their importers and exporters in order to capitalize on all possible areas of bilateral trade promotion.

Zafar Bakhtawari, former President & Secretary General UBG said that both countries should develop direct air and railways links that would help boost bilateral trade and economic ties.

Waqar Bakhtawari, President Chakwal Chamber of Commerce, Ameer Hamza Rizwan Cheena, Ch. Javed Iqbal, Humayun Kabir, Munizah Majid, Ch. Muhammad Ali and others were also present on the occasion.

SECP organizes financial reporting workshop

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) held a capacity building workshop for journalists at its Head Office today, apprising them about SECP's efforts on promoting Islamic finance and encouraging innovation within its regulatory domain. The session was attended by leading journalists from print and electronic media.

Ms. Musarat Jabeen, Executive Director and Spokesperson of the SECP, while welcoming the participants informed them about various reforms initiated by the SECP in its efforts to facilitate financial inclusion and market expansion, with the objective to improve the business climate in Pakistan.

Mr. Tariq Naseem, Head of Islamic Finance Department at SECP, gave an overview of Islamic Finance, its basic principles, and informed the participants about SECP's efforts in developing local Islamic financial ecosystem. He also highlighted salient features of the recent diagnostic report on Islamic finance published by



SECP, which has identified various impediments in the growth of Islamic Finance and policy recommendations needed for its development in the country.

SECP Director Amina Aziz informed the attendees of SECP's Regulatory Sandbox initiative, which allows for live testing of new products, services, or business models not covered under existing laws. This program, launched in 2020, is now

entering its fourth cohort, inviting applications covering both Islamic financing and conventional financing, with preference given to Shariah-compliant digital finance models. Potential areas include crowd-sourcing, liquidity management, nano-finance, small ticket savings, sukuk fractionalization, and any new takaful model or digital intermediation in regulated Islamic financial services.

Failed experience of taxing bank withdrawals shouldn't be repeated

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Former Vice President of FPCCI Atif Ikram Sheikh on Wednesday said the failed experiment of levying tax on bank withdrawals should not be repeated.

The move would prove to be the last nail in the coffin of our sinking economy, he said.

Such a move will promote the undocumented economy as the business community did not accept this decision before and will not accept it now, he added.

Atif Ikram Sheikh who has also served as President ICCI and Chairman PVMA said in a statement issued here today that in the past the business community have used their own parallel banking system against the decision of imposing withholding tax on withdrawing money from the banks.

The revolt of the business community sucked huge sums of money from the banking system, he said, adding that at that time, the state of the country's economy and strength of banks was not what it is today, nor were the big banks of America and Europe were going bankrupt.

It would be appropriate to trash such a proposal which has nothing to do with the



ground realities of Pakistan. He noted that the state of our tax system is so pathetic that there are only 7.6 lakh people registered with FBR, out of which 3.6 lakh file tax returns, while many among the filers do not deposit even a single rupee as tax.

If this proposal is implemented, the entire population will have to pay this tax, except for 3.6 million people, he underlined.

Atif Ikram Sheikh said that the burden on the taxpayers and the public is always increased in the name of tax reforms while the tax net is not extended and the non-tax paying sectors are not targeted.

He said that due to increasing direct taxes, endless surcharges, cumbersome paperwork, unfriendly attitude and other problems, the share of taxes in the country's GDP is so low that it is impossible to increase it without effective measures.

Decoration

ISLAMABAD: A worker is busy in arranging decorated room flowers pots along the road side to attract customers at Chak Shahzad area to sell, and earn daily wages for the livelihood of his family.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

MCB Bank launches State-of-the-Art ATM upgrade project

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: MCB Bank Limited (MCB), one of Pakistan's leading banks, has launched a technology upgrade of its existing ATM network, with over 1,000 state-of-the-art ATMs to be installed across 500 cities nationwide. The upgrade is part of MCB Bank's commitment to providing innovative and secure financial services to its customers.

The new ATMs are equipped with advanced features making transactions faster, more secure, and easier than ever before. The Bank celebrated the commencement of the project with an inauguration ceremony held at the MCB Bank principal office. President & CEO MCB Bank, Mr. Shoaib Mumtaz formally launched the project of ATM upgradation by cutting a ribbon. The event was attended by Chief Digital Officer, Mr. Shahzad Ishaq, Chief Financial Officer, Mr. Hammad Khalid, CEO Innovative Pakistan, Mr. Naveed Ali Baig, CEO Touch Point, Mr. Tabish Sabah, and other senior representatives from MCB Bank, Innovative Pakistan, and Touch Point.

The Urban Unit and CCP Ink an MoU for enhanced cooperation

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Urban Unit and the Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance the professional expertise of both institutions by undertaking exchange and joint activities in the fields of training, research, data sharing, and capacity building.

The MoU was signed by Mr. Muhammad Omar Masud, CEO of the Urban Unit, and Ms. Rahat Kaunain Hassan, Chairperson of CCP. Senior officials from Urban Unit and CCP were in attendance.



cy advice, services, and expertise in urban planning, transport, waste management, water and sanitation, economic development, finance, capacity building, service delivery improvement, as well as consultation and support in communication,

branding, marketing, and stakeholder engagement. The agreement aims to facilitate exchange programs, joint training initiatives, and consultancy services in specific areas of mutual interest.

Expressing his views on the collaboration, Mr. Omar Masud said that the MOU will help Urban Unit to collaborate in conducting joint training, consultancies, and capacity-building programs in defined areas of interest. The collaboration aims to support access to data established and maintained by the Urban Unit

for research studies, competition reports, and inquiries.

Ms. Rahat Kaunain Hassan highlighted the importance of joint training, consultancies, and capacity-building programs in defined areas of interest, which will be conducted collaboratively between the two institutions to enhance their professional expertise. She expressed her confidence that the MoU will lead to greater collaboration and a more effective working relationship between CCP and the Urban Unit.

This collaboration sets the stage for a productive partnership, allowing both organizations to harness their collective strengths and achieve their respective objectives effectively.

News Desk

KARACHI: International Industries Limited (IIL), Pakistan's largest manufacturer & exporter of steel and polymer pipes, proudly announces the successful commissioning of a state-of-the-art 1 MW solar power system at IIL Factory 1 in Karachi.

This initiative marks a significant step towards IIL's larger commitment to sustainability and reducing its environmental footprint by installing a total of 4MW of renewable energy across all its factory locations.

"We are thrilled to unveil our new solar power system, which represents our strong

commitment to sustainability and environmental stewardship," said Mr. Sohail R. Bhojani, CEO of International Industries Limited.

"By harnessing renewable energy, we are not only reducing our carbon footprint but also demonstrating our dedication to responsible business practices and to contributing towards a greener future for Pakistan and the world at large", he further added.

Aside from the significant contribution to carbon footprint reduction, the solar power system is expected to generate substantial cost savings for International Industries Limited over its operational lifespan.



34th National Games: Sindh secures 1 silver and 4 bronze medals in Women's Fencing

Sports Desk

QUETTA: The Sindh team has secured 1 silver and 4 bronze medals in the Fencing Event of the ongoing 34th National Games being held in Quetta.

On the final day of the Women's Fencing Event, Sindh Fencing added 3 Bronze medals and 1 Silver medal bringing the team's total to One Silver and 5 Bronze Medals.

Individual medals were won by: Schrish Karim (bronze-epee), Zainab Bukhari (2 bronze-foil and sabre), and Alishba Ehsen (silver-sabre).

Team medals-2 bronze in foil (SF-lost to Islamabad by 40-45) and in sabre (SF-lost to Punjab by 43-45).

The Chef-de-Mission of Sindh Contingent Farhan Essa along with POA Media Advisor Asif Azeem and

Secretary Sindh Olympic Association Ahmed Ali Rajput visited various venues to witness the ongoing competitions of hockey, volleyball, baseball, fencing, boxing, football and gymnastic. He congratulated the Sindh athletes on a good show and advised them to remain focused on the game, adhering to the game rules and discipline to win more medals for Sindh and add to the final tally in style.

"The commitment and zeal shown by Sindh athletes in the Games so far are encouraging and laudable, Farhan Essa said.

Earlier, in the Baseball event, Pak Army overcame KPK by 17 to 05 Runs difference in the 6th innings in the first match of Day-2 of the Baseball event.

For the winners, Hussain, Asad Ali, Ali Hamza and Younas scored two runs each while Shehzad and Nazir



scored one runs each. Faqeer scored 04 Runs and Waseem scored 03 Runs.

On the other hand, the KPK Players scored two runs each Musa and Saeed

Akhtar. (Saeed Akhtar Hit Home Run) while Awais also scored one run.

The other match of the day-2 was played between Pak Wapda and Balochistan teams in which Pak Wapda comprehensively defeated Balochistan by 19 to 00 Runs, on Mercy Rule.

For the winners, the scorers were 3 runs each by M. Waseem (M.Waseem hit Home Run), Noman, M. Zakir while 02 Runs each were scored by Sadam, Waqas, Umair, Fazal Ur Rehman. M. Sadiq and Jawad scored one run each.

However, Balochistan Players could not score any runs.

In Gymnastics Competitions, Wapda is leading so far, followed by Army. The gymnastics competition took place at Butemans University Quetta and the Competition on two apparatus (Floor & Pommel) have completed.

Pakistan U19 will depart from Bangladesh today after a memorable tour

Sports Desk

LAHORE: The series which was played in two cities of Bangladesh - Chattogram and Rajshahi from 30 April to 17 May, included a one-off four-day, five-match one-day series and a solitary T20 match.

In the four-day match played at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chattogram from 30 April to 3 May, Pakistan dominated with both bat and ball. Left-handed opening batter Shahzaib Khan scored 174 runs in the first innings, while left-arm spinner Ali Asfand claimed six wickets

in the match and nine wickets were shared amongst pacers Amir Hassan and Mohammad Ismail as Pakistan registered a comprehensive 10-wicket win over the hosts.

In the five-match one-day series, the 17-year-old Shahzaib continued his form and was declared player of the series in Pakistan's 4-1 win. The opening batter scored 264 runs from five matches, which included one century and two half-centuries. His opening partner, Azan Awais, topped the batting charts with 269 runs from five outings in the one-day

series. Azan also scored one century and two half-centuries in the series.

In the bowling unit, vice-captain and spinner Ali Asfand bagged 10 wickets. Another left-arm spinner Arafat Minhas and fast bowlers Amir Hassan and Aimal Khan snapped eight wickets each. Left-arm pacer Amir's eight wickets from four matches include figures of five for 24, which was the only five-fer by any bowler in the one-day series.

In the solitary T20 match at the Shaheed Kamruzaman Stadium in Rajshahi on Wednesday, another

left-hander, Shamiyul Hussain's half-century led Pakistan U19 to a remarkable four-wicket win over the hosts. The tourists achieved the challenging 160-run target with five balls to spare.

Head Coach Sabih Azhar, reviewing the performance of the team, said: "It was not easy to beat Bangladesh at their own backyard. I am satisfied with the achievement of the team, but this does not mean we get relaxed; there are still some areas which the coaches have marked and there are still room for improvements in that.

Pakistan Hockey team's coach Siegfried Aikman steps down



A Sports

LAHORE: The head coach of the Pakistan men's hockey team Siegfried Aikman on Thursday, has stepped down from his position.

According to the details, the Dutch coach did not receive a salary from the Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) for the past 12 months which made it "impossible for him to continue working" with the team.

"A lot of promises were made but they were not fulfilled. I wanted to fulfil my commitment but it's time for me to move on," said Aikman.

As per the sources, the reason behind the delay in Aikman's salary was a rift between the Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) and PHF.

PHF General Secretary Haider Hussain expressed his disappointment over Aikman's decision while accepting that nothing was being paid to the head coach.

He also claimed that he contacted the PSB regarding this matter on a number of occasions but the board did not take any action to resolve the issue.

Former England U20 player Easah Suliman to represent Pakistan football team

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Former England U20 player Easah Suliman is all set to represent the Pakistan men's football team after FIFA approved the request made by the Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) to change his national eligibility.

The 25-year-old centre-back is currently representing UD Vilafranca in the second tier of the Portuguese Football League and has had the opportunity to represent England at a number of events and also to captain their junior side.

He was also a part of England's European U19 Championship-winning team in 2017.

He has a current market value of €350k and is playing for UD Vilafranca while being on loan from Vitoria Guimaraes SC.

Easah Suliman has 142 appearances to his name in the club football and has scored two goals and one assist. He

Taking to Twitter, the PFF confirmed that the football governing body has approved their request of changing Easah Suliman's national eligibility and he will represent the national team in upcoming events.

"FIFA has approved a request by



the Pakistan Football Federation to change Easah Suliman's national eligibility from England," the PFF said on its official Twitter account.

"The former England U20 player will now be representing Pakistan in the upcoming events," it added.

The head coach of the Pakistan men's football team Shahzad Anwar expressed his delight over Suliman's inclusion into the national setup and is hopeful that his presence will benefit

other players in gaining valuable experience.

"His participation in 142 club football matches is proof of Easah Suliman's dedication to the game and professional mindset. He has the ability to perform well for any team for a long period of time," said Anwar.

"Fellow footballers will also benefit from his awareness and expertise in the technical aspects of the game," he added.

Rafael Nadal pulls out of French Open, set to end career in 2024

Rafael Nadal on Thursday withdrew from the French Open because his hip injury has not healed and said he expects 2024 to be his final year in professional tennis.

"It's not a decision I'm taking, it's a decision my body is taking," said the 36-year-old Spanish player, who has played at the claycourt major every year since 2005 and won it 14 times.

Rafael Nadal said he was taking a few months off, meaning he will also definitely miss Wimbledon and most likely the US Open, before starting to play again.

And he said next year would bring down the curtain on a career that has so far produced 22 Grand Slam singles titles.

"It's probably going to be my last year on the professional tour, I can't say this 100 percent because you never know what's going to happen," he told a news conference.

"The injury I suffered in Australia has not healed as we hoped.

The 7th edition of MPL tape ball cricket tournament will be played



Sports Desk

LAHORE: The 7th edition of MPL Tape ball cricket tournament will be played on 22nd to 27th at Dha phase-1 cricket ground, Lahore. The Chairman MPL said that there will be 32 teams will take part in the tournament. From Lahore 10, Sialkot 5, KPK 3 and Karachi 3 teams will take part while from Sawat, Peshawar, Rahimyar Khan, Charsada, Mian Channu, Rawalpindi, Kot Addu, Narowal and Gujranwala will take part in the tournament. He said that the first time in the history the Geo Super will live telecast the tournament matches. He said that huge number of cash prizes has been kept in the tournament. Winner in Final will get Rs.5 lac, runner up 2 lac, while man of the tournament, best batsman, best bowler, cash on sixes and also cash awarded will be given to the crowd during the tournament. Farhad further said that MPL 7th edition will give the new trend to the tape ball lovers and in futures this tournament will be brand for our tape ball lovers at the end he said that all the arrangements has completed. Former Pakistan Test Cricketers Misbah Ul Haq and Abdul Razaq will be the Chief Guest on the occasion of final match. He said our main sponsors will be FMW, Pro Derma, and SA Garden.

Weightlifter Nooh Butt sidelined from Asian Games, Paris Olympics

A Sports



ISLAMABAD: Renowned national weightlifter Muhammad Nooh Dastgir Butt has been sidelined from this year's Asian Games and Paris Olympics 2024 for allegedly being part of a parallel weightlifting interim committee.

However, the Commonwealth Games gold medalist has refuted the accusations made against him and categorically denied his affiliation with any interim weightlifting committee.

Taking to his Instagram account, Nooh Dastgir Butt shared an official letter, that he received from the Pakistan Weightlifting Federation (PWF), which expressed reservations over his inclusion in the weightlifting event of the ongoing National Games.

"I, unfortunately, won't be able to participate in future weightlifting competitions — be it National Games (2023) or international competitions like Asian Games (2023) or Olympic Games (2024) — as I have been alleged to be a member of a parallel weightlifting interim committee by the Pakistan Weightlifting Federation (PWF). As a result, I won't be given an opportunity or platform to participate in future competitions," Nooh Dastgir Butt said on his official Instagram account.

Indian flag colours on Punjab's National Games kit irks Wahab Riaz

Sports Desk

QUETTA: Pakistan fast bowler and advisor to the Government of Punjab on sports Wahab Riaz has expressed his annoyance over the presence of Indian flag colours on the kits worn by the province's athletes in the ongoing National Games.

The advisor to the caretaker chief minister directed the Punjab Olympic Association (POA) to submit a response on the matter.

According to Wahab, neither his ministry nor the Punjab Sports Board was consulted beforehand regarding the design of the kits donned by the province's contingent at the event.

"When we asked POA to provide details of the players participating in the Games, we were told that the government's sole responsibility is to



release the fund," he added. "POA said they are an independent body."

He informed that the provincial

government released funds amounting to Rs20 million for the participation of the athletes in the National Games, currently underway in Quetta.

Hasan Ali takes hat-trick in English T20 tournament

A Sports

BIRMINGHAM: Pakistan fast bowler Hasan Ali continued to impress during the ongoing English season with Warwickshire as he bagged a hat-trick in the Second XI T20 competition on Tuesday.

The right-arm pacer starred with sensational figures of 5-14, including the hat-trick as his side Warwickshire Bears registered a 78-run win against the Northamptonshire Steelbacks at the Edgbaston Community Sports on Tuesday.

Hasan completed his hat trick with the dismissal of England international David Willey, who remained the top-scorer at 79, after the right-armed struck twice on the last two balls of the 17th over.

He then went on to take another wick-



et a ball later making it four in five balls. The 28-year-old has played 22 Tests, 60 ODIs and 50 T20Is for Pakistan with 229 international wickets to his credit.